

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

Phone: [940-867-9761](tel:940-867-9761) (President Penny Miller)

Web Page: www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls

VOTER *for June 2016*

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Ashley Thomas, Communications Officer, WFISD
Wednesday, June 1, at Luby's Cafeteria.

Go thru lunch line prior to noon call to order.

"WFISD Year in Review"

Ms. Thomas was born and raised in the Wichita Falls area. She attended Midwestern State University, graduating in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication. She began working for WFISD in January 2005 as the Magnet Information Specialist. She later moved to the Community Relations office as the District Webmaster. She has been in her current position as Communications Officer since October 2014.

Ms. Thomas enjoys volunteering in the community and is active in several community organizations including Junior League of Wichita Falls, Children's Miracle Network and the Nonprofit Center.

She has two children, Kendyl and Grayson, who attend Ben Milam Elementary.

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New Officers

At our annual meeting in May, we elected a new slate (although there are many names here you have seen before.) Thank you all who volunteered to serve. We can still use at least one board member and the nominating committee for next year is still open.

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| Kaye Holland | President |
| Tad Gose | 1st Vice-president [program] |
| Rosemary Capps | 2nd Vice-president [organization]* |
| | *(Nell Lister, meeting assistant) |
| Vacant | 3rd Vice-president [community relations] |

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| Terry Gilleland | Secretary |
| Jane McGough | Treasurer |
| Ruby Ditto | Board |
| Eldon Sund | Board |
| Liz Vernon | Board |
| tbd | Board |

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MEMBERSHIP?

The League Year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Individual member dues remain at **\$60** per member. Dues for a family (couple) are **\$90**. Per Member Payments (PMP) required by the State & National Leagues require us to remit virtually all of these dues on to them. Therefore, donations from members, friends, & others are essential for us to issue Voters Guides during each election season.

Either bring your dues (and contributions) to a meeting, or mail to the treasurer at our P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308. Make checks payable to LWV-Wichita Falls.

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ELECTION REMINDER

We have an election coming up! Just a reminder that during meetings, no campaign buttons or partisan commentary by members. We do a pretty good job overall, but it is easy to get wrapped up in our passion for a particular candidate or party during election season.

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SUMMER BREAK

Just a reminder we will be on summer break in July and August. Our program year will begin again in September. It is going to be a busy fall! Enjoy your break because it is going to be a crazy fall!

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP REGISTER VOTERS?

Several members have indicated they would like to see us do more in voter registration. To do that, we need people who would like to take the necessary training and take part in events to register those who want to vote. If you are interested, contact Kay Holland or Penny Miller for more information. We'll

talk about this a little more at the meeting on June 1. We will be pursuing this over the summer, so speak up now.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT..... Penny Miller.

It's hard to believe, but another League year is drawing to a close. I appreciate the Nominating Committee for putting together a great slate and especially Kaye Holland for stepping up to take on the President role. She has a lot of energy and some great ideas. Please give her your support.

So, what will I be doing? I'm not going anywhere. My daughter, Ashley McErlean will be doing the Voters Guide for the elections and I have volunteered to take on Vote411 for our League. This will be some work to get off the ground, so if you have an interest in helping, let me know. I would love the help. In addition, I will continue to do the monthly Voter newsletter. Hopefully, I'll be able to devote more time and effort to the newsletter so it will be more timely and more interesting.

Our annual meeting was more lively than usual. We made several changes to our positions and authorized a new study about mental health. Ashley McErlean will be the chair of this study. We're putting together the study focus and scope and will present that next week after the executive committee gets a chance to scrub the wording. This should be a very interesting study. If you are interested in participating, be sure to let Ashley know so you get all of the communication about it. Remember that a study is the first step to establishing a position from which we can advocate. We also passed a resolution to advocate for library hours which improve accessibility for families. We are working on that letter now. Thanks to all of our members for your active participation in the annual meeting.

Several of our members attended the public meeting on Voting Centers. We are advocating in support of the centers in order to encourage people to vote. There is significant opposition to the concept however. I don't have a crystal ball, but I feel like the Commissioners will likely come down in favor of the concept but defer moving forward until after the general election and possibly until after the legislative session to see what they might do. We'll see. If you talk to your Commissioner, please let them know easy access to polling locations is important.

Our last meeting of the year will be Ashley Thomas with the WFISD. Some of our regular members will be out of town this month, so it is even more important to invite a guest to this meeting. I can think of several issues our members should be interested in, relating to the school district.

Bring a friend to our meeting on June 1.

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Feel free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates.

Feedback to Penny Miller at pdmiller.luv@gmail.com or [940-867-9761](tel:940-867-9761).